

In the Drawings

Please replace the original drawings in Figures 2A, 5, and 6 with the corrected drawings attached hereto.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1- 25.

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) An apparatus to facilitate identification of a bearing having a certain size comprising:

a mold comprising a top surface, a bottom surface, and a form region,

the top surface comprising a marking identifying a bearing model number,
the form region comprising,

a form bottom surface substantially parallel to the top surface,

an outer wall contiguous with the top surface and the form bottom surface, the outer wall having a contoured surface and a generally cylindrical shape, the contoured surface designed to fit rollers of only the bearing having the certain size, and

a hub disposed within the outer wall and between the top surface and the form bottom surface, the hub comprising

a hub top surface substantially parallel to the top surface and

an inner wall contiguous with the hub top surface and the form bottom surface and having a generally cylindrical shape.

27. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the mold comprises a plastic material.

28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the mold further comprises a removable cover that attaches to the top surface of the mold.

29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein a protective material is placed between the top surface of the mold and the removable cover.

30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the top surface further comprises a rim around the perimeter of the mold.

31. (New) A method for storing a bearing using a bearing mold to facilitate use of the appropriate-sized bearing comprising:

placing the bearing in the bearing mold, wherein the bearing mold is designed with a recess comprising an inner hub and an outer contoured surface such that only one size of bearing properly fits in the bearing mold;

verifying that the correct size bearing is placed in the bearing mold by checking that a bearing serial number and a machine model identifier on the bearing mold correspond to the bearing; and

covering the bearing mold to protect the bearing and create a packaged bearing.

32. (New) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of shipping the packaged bearing from a manufacturer of the bearing to a purchaser.

33. (New) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of storing the packaged bearing for later installation in the machine.

34. (New) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of storing the packaged bearing in a rack comprising packaged bearings of the same size.

35. (New) A method for installing the appropriate-size bearing in a machine using a bearing mold, comprising the steps of:

selecting a rack holding the bearing mold containing bearings for a machine;
removing the bearing mold from the rack, wherein the bearing mold is designed with a recess comprising an inner hub and a contoured outer surface shaped to receive only one size of bearing;

verifying a machine model number and a bearing model number on the bearing mold;

removing the bearing from the bearing mold; and
installing the bearing in the machine.

36. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein the rack holds bearing molds containing bearings of the same size.

37. (New) The method of Claim 35, further comprising the step of removing the bearing using notches in the bearing mold.

38. (New) An apparatus to facilitate identification of a bearing having a certain size comprising:

a mold, comprising a top surface, a bottom surface, and a form region, wherein the dimensions of the form region are such that only the bearing having the certain size can correctly fit in the form region,

the form region comprising,

a form bottom surface substantially parallel to the top surface,

an outer wall contiguous with the top surface and the form bottom surface, the outer wall having a contoured surface and a generally cylindrical shape, the contoured surface designed to fit rollers of only the bearing having the certain size,

a step disposed between the top surface and the form bottom surface and further disposed outside the outer wall, the step operable for facilitating placement and removal of the bearing in the form region, the step comprising

a step surface generally parallel to the top surface and contiguous with the outer wall and

a step wall generally parallel to the outer wall and contiguous with the step surface and the top surface; and

a hub disposed within the outer wall and between the top surface and the form bottom surface, the hub comprising

a hub top surface substantially parallel to the top surface and

an inner wall contiguous with the hub top surface and the form bottom surface and having a generally cylindrical shape.

39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the hub top surface is level with a bearing top surface when the bearing having the certain size is placed in the form region.

40. (New) An apparatus to facilitate identification of a bearing having a certain size comprising:

a mold sized to accept the bearing having the certain size, the mold comprising a top surface, a bottom surface, and a form region,

the form region comprising,

a form bottom surface substantially parallel to the top surface,

an outer wall contiguous with the top surface and the form bottom surface, the outer wall having a contoured surface designed to receive the rollers of only the bearing having the certain size and a generally cylindrical shape, the outer wall comprising a first notch and a second notch operable for facilitating removal of the bearing from the form region, and

a hub disposed within the outer wall and between the top surface and the form bottom surface, the hub comprising

a hub top surface substantially parallel to the top surface and

an inner wall contiguous with the hub top surface and the form bottom surface and having a generally cylindrical shape.

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein the inner wall comprises a third notch and a forth notch operable for facilitating removal of the bearing from the form region.

42. (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the first notch, the second notch, the third notch, and the fourth notch are contiguous with the form bottom surface so as to reduce the existence of a vacuum between the surfaces of the bearing and the mold.

43. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the outer wall and the hub are disposed to measure an outer diameter and an inner diameter of the bearing simultaneously.

44. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the contoured surface of the outer wall is shaped to prevent a bearing having a size different from the certain size from properly fitting in the form region.

45. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the outer wall and the hub are disposed to measure an outer diameter and an inner diameter of the bearing simultaneously.

46. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the contoured surface of the outer wall is shaped to prevent a bearing having a size different from the certain size from properly fitting in the form region.

47. (New) An apparatus to facilitate identification of a bearing having a certain size comprising:

a mold comprising a top surface, a bottom surface, a step, and a form region,

the form region comprising,

a form bottom surface substantially parallel to the top surface,

an outer wall contiguous with the form bottom surface, the outer wall having a generally cylindrical shape and a contoured surface shaped to receive only the bearing having the certain size, and

a hub disposed within the outer wall and between the top surface and the form bottom surface, the hub comprising,

a hub top surface substantially parallel to the top surface and

an inner wall contiguous with the hub top surface and the form bottom surface and having a generally cylindrical shape, and

the step disposed between the top surface and the form bottom surface and further disposed outside the outer wall, wherein the step facilitates placement and removal of the bearing in the form region.

48. (New) The apparatus of Claim 47, wherein the step comprises:

a step surface generally parallel to the top surface and contiguous with the outer wall and

a step wall generally parallel to the outer wall and contiguous with the step surface and the top surface.

49. (New) The apparatus of Claim 47, wherein the contoured surface of the outer wall comprises a series of recesses.

50. (New) The apparatus of Claim 47, wherein the outer wall comprises a first notch and a second notch operable for facilitating removal of the bearing from the form region.

51. (New) The apparatus of Claim 47, wherein the outer wall and the hub are disposed to measure an outer diameter and an inner diameter of the bearing simultaneously.

52. (New) An apparatus to facilitate identification of a bearing having a certain size comprising:

a mold comprising a top surface, a bottom surface, and a form region,

the form region comprising,

a form bottom surface substantially parallel to the top surface,

an outer wall contiguous with the top surface and the form bottom surface, the outer wall having a generally cylindrical shape, comprising a first notch contiguous with the form bottom surface and a second notch contiguous with the form bottom surface, and further comprising a contoured surface designed to receive the rollers of only the bearing having the certain size, and

a hub disposed within the outer wall and between the top surface and the form bottom surface, the hub comprising,

a hub top surface substantially parallel to the top surface and

an inner wall contiguous with the hub top surface and the form bottom surface and having a generally cylindrical shape.

53. (New) The apparatus of Claim 52, wherein the inner wall comprises a third notch and a fourth notch for facilitating removal of the bearing from the form region.

54. (New) The apparatus of Claim 53, wherein the third notch is contiguous with the form bottom surface and the fourth notch is contiguous with the form bottom surface.

55. (New) The apparatus of Claim 52, wherein the outer wall and the hub are disposed to measure an outer diameter and an inner diameter of the bearing simultaneously.

56. (New) The apparatus of Claim 52, further comprising a step disposed between the top surface and the form bottom surface and further disposed outside the outer wall, wherein the step facilitates placement and removal of the bearing in the form region.